(c) the reaction of the University Grants Commission thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) to (c) In a communication, Member-Secretary of the Planning Commission has suggested a system of performancelinked funding of the Universities to improve quality of higher education. This suggestion is, infact, in line with the similar recommendations made by a Committee of the UGC appointed under the Chairmanship of Justice K. Pannayya. The Chairperson, UGC in her response, has broadly endorsed the idea. The details may, however, have to be worked out with reference to the provisions contained in the legislations governing the various Universities in the country.

**Educational Development Programmes for weaker section in Gujarat**

380. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether some specific target oriented programmes for the educational development of students belonging to weaker sections of the society including SC/ST/OBC and minorities have been launched in Gujarat either by UGC or Government particularly in the field of University education;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the desired results are being achieved by these programmes in the State; and

(d) if no, what remedial measures are being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF IUMAN RESOURCE EVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM KIA): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

**Plight of a Junior National Champion**

381. SHRI GYANRANJAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware about the plight of a Junior National Champion of Bihar who won the Gold Medal at the Junior National Athletic Championship held in Tamil Nadu in December, 1996;

(b) if so, whether the Stipend being given to him for the past six months has been stopped;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Central Government propose to take steps for proper diet and financial help to the athlete who is being coached for the forthcoming Junior Asian Athletic Championship; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI R. DHANUSHKODI ATHITHAN): (a) to (c) The required information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

**Failure of Literacy Mission in Gujarat**

382. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether literacy mission in Gujarat has failed to achieve the desired success;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the above said situation has emerged due to lack of proper coordination between the department and the concerned ministry of education of the State Government; and